

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-24 have been subjected to a Restriction Requirement requiring the election of claims directed to one of the following species of polynucleotide constructs:

- a) a polynucleotide construct comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding BAX and an autoantigen;
- b) a polynucleotide construct comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a BAX, an autoantigen, and E3-GP19k;
- c) a polynucleotide construct comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding BAX, an autoantigen, E3-GP19k and Δ bcl-2;
- d) a plasmid comprising a promoter and a nucleotide sequence encoding E3-GP19k;
- e) a plasmid comprising a promoter and a nucleotide sequence encoding Δ bcl-2; or
- f) a polynucleotide construct comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding E3-GP19k and Δ Bcl-2.

In response, the Applicant hereby elects claims 1-2 and 5-18 directed to the species of a polynucleotide construct comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding BAX and an autoantigen for examination on the merits, amends claims 2 and 5-9 as indicated in the Detailed Action section of the Restriction Requirement to place the claims in a format as required under United States Patent practice, and cancels claims 3-4 and 19-24. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

All of claims 1-2 and 5-18 are now believed to be in condition for examination and allowance and an indication of such is hereby solicited. If there are any questions regarding these matters, the Patent and Trademark Office is requested to contact the undersigned to expedite resolution of any such matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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Page 5 of 5